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NASA Cyber Security Awareness Month Symposium
NASA Headquarters
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October is designated as the National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The NASA Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme is **STOP | THINK | CONNECT as NASA Leaps Forward in Cybersecurity.**

I want to first thank Linda Cureton, Kelly Carter and Valarie Burks for organizing this symposium, and reminding us of the importance of constant vigilance to ensure on-line safety and security both at work and at home.

NASA is pleased to join the entire federal interagency family in participating in the 2012 National Cyber Security Awareness Month. It is a time when all Americans are encouraged to spread awareness about the impact that cybersecurity has on our lives. Together we can do our part in keeping ourselves, our families, and our country safe.

Few of us need to be reminded of the impact cyberspace has on our lives. From the kitchen table to the classroom, from business transactions to essential government operations and services, cybersecurity is an issue that touches us all. National Cyber Security Awareness Month reminds us that being safer and more secure online is a shared responsibility.

While increased connectivity has led to amazing transformations and global advances across society, it has also increased our shared risk from hackers, thieves and predators. In addition to the damage this can cause to families, communities and businesses, lapses in cyber security can have catastrophic national security consequences. Our entire economy and critical infrastructure are increasingly dependent on the Internet and there is the very real threat of a collapse of these systems if critical on-line data falls into the wrong hands.

That is why NASA supports President Obama's designation of October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month.   I am pleased that our Office of the Chief Information Officer is working in tandem with the Department of Homeland Security to proactively advance preparedness through increased awareness and information sharing.

The nature of NASA's work makes Information Technology Security critical and important to our program delivery. Many employees use mobile devices outside the standard office environment during travel and when

routine work occurs outside of an office. This increases the risk level, and our need to protect the equipment, and the information that is stored there.

While the cost to replace lost or stolen IT devices is a concern, the real damage is done through the loss of NASA program information, including personal and other sensitive information. Losses such as these have the potential to harm NASA's credibility, diminish the public trust, and impede our ability to deliver and manage Agency programs.

NASA needs to remain vigilant 24 hours a day. I encourage you to practice cyber security every day of the year.

Everyone in the NASA community can help keep NASA safer by following a few simple rules which are outlined in this new Information Security pamphlet.

Cyber security is critical to ensuring the integrity of NASA data, and ultimately the overall NASA mission. Linda and her team have taught me that while the CIO community does everything they can to protect our cyber security – the power actually does rest with each of us. It's easy to get

complacent, as the technologies and devices have become ubiquitous. But we are truly only as strong as our weakest link. A laptop left in a car, a suspicious email opened – can put us al risk, so we know we all support each other and the NASA mission.

Remember Cyber security begins and ends with you!